Claims:

1.   A method of providing access to data across one or more environments in a data system, said method comprising the steps of:

     identifying and classifying data as non-critical data or critical data; and

     classifying critical data as authoritative data in situations where the data requires immediate access in order to provide a seamless interface to a user, the authoritative data being the most recent value of a data entry.

2.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of storing the authoritative data in an authoritative data storage module and subsequently displaying the authoritative data to the user.

3.   A method according to claim 2 further comprising the steps of storing the classification of the data in a file means and thereafter storing the data in a designated location in accordance with the classification of the data.

4.   A method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of adjusting the classification of the data in accordance with a change in a current environment or a move to another environment.

5.   A method of writing data to a data storage module, said method comprising the steps of:

     classifying a newly created data entity as critical data or non-critical data;

     obtaining a current value of the data entity;

     determining the location at which the current value is to be stored in the data storage module on the basis of the classifying step; and

     storing the current value in the determined location.

6.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in volatile storage of the data storage module where the current value of the data entity is not critical data.

7.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in an authoritative source of the data storage module where the current value of the data entity is authoritative data.

8.   A method according to claim 5 further comprising the step of storing the current value of the data entity in non-volatile storage of the data storage module where the current value of the data entity is not authoritative data.

9.   A method of communicating between a source component and a destination component of a data system across one or more environments, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying the relative location of the source component and the destination component;

determining if the source component and destination component are within the same environment or separate environments; and

establishing communication between the source component and destination component on the basis of the determining step.

10.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of determining if the source component and destination component share the same process where the source component and destination component share the same environment.

11.   A method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of establishing a communications mechanism between the source component and destination component as an intra-process communication where the source component and destination component share the same process.

12.   A method according to claim 11 wherein the source component and destination component communicate through function calls.

13.   A method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of establishing a communications mechanism between the source component and destination component as an inter-process communication where the source component and destination component are in different processes but share the same environment.

14.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of using a network protocol for communicating between the source component and the destination component where the source component and destination component are in different environments.

15.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of using a distributed communication mechanism for communicating between the source component and the destination component where the source component and destination component are in different environments.

16.   A method according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of during initialisation of each component, including source component and destination component, identifying the location of said component and storing the location to be used by other components when transmitting and receiving information or commands.

17.   A method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of each component identifying and storing information as to services provided by said component, outputs of said component, inputs of said component and communication mechanisms used by said component.

18.   Computer program means for directing a processing means to execute a procedure to enable access to data across one or more environments in a data system according to any of the method steps of claim 1.

19.   Computer program means for directing a processing means to execute a procedure to write data to a data storage module according to any of the method steps of claim 5.

20.   Computer program means for directing a processing means to execute a procedure to enable communication between a source component and a destination component of a data system across one or more environments according to any of the method steps of claim 9.